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*Intellectual Property and Technology Related Causes*

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**To: Examiner Kiran B. Patel**

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**From: Jeffrey J. Chapp**

**Date: April 11, 2005**

**Your File No.: 10/708,252**

**Our Ref. No.: 04636 (LC 0145 PUS)**

**Comments: Please see attached response to Office Action dtd  
March 11, 2005, Serial No. 10/708,252. Thank you.**

**Total Pages (incl. Cover sheet)** 4

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APR 11 2005

In re Application of:

Alan Sturt, et al.

Serial No.: 10/708,252

Group Art Unit: 3612

Filed: February 19, 2004

Examiner: Patel, Kiran B.

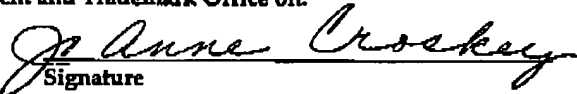
Title: ERASABLE MESSAGE BOARD FOR A VEHICLE

Atty. Docket No.: 04636 (LC 0146 PUS)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile (703-872-9306) to  
Examiner Kiran Patel with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on:

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Jo Anne Croskey

  
Signature

ELECTION

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Election in response to the Office Action dated March  
11, 2005.

U.S.S.N. 10/708,252

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**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated March 11, 2005, claims 1-20 are pending. The Office Action states that claims 1-15 and claims 17-20 are directed to separate and distinct inventions and for that reason an election is required and a restriction for examination purposes is proper.

The Office Action groups claims 1-20 into a Group I having claims 1-15 and into a Group II having claims 17-20. Applicants assume that Group I includes claim 16 since it depends from claim 11. The Office Action states that Groups I and II are drawn to message boards, but that Group I as claimed does not require the particulars of a suspension liquid of Group II. Applicants agree and thus elect Group I without traverse.

In paragraphs 4 and 5, the Office Action further states that the application is drawn to four patently distinctive species, the species are:

Species A – directed towards Figures 1-2D;

Species B – directed towards Figure 2E;

Species C – directed towards Figure 3;

Species D – directed towards Figures 4A-B.

The Office Action states that an election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable is required. Thus, Applicants elect species A. The Office Action further states that there appears to be no claim, which is generic to all species. Applicants agree that the above species are patentably distinct. However, Applicants submit that each of claims 1 and 11 broadly cover species A, B, and C and thus claims 1 and 11 and their associated dependent claims 2-10 and 12-16 should be considered for prosecution on the merits.

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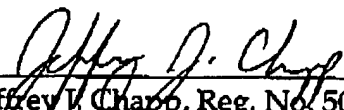
For example, claim 1 recites a message board system having a first layer and a second layer. The second layer resides adjacent the first layer and is configured such that a portion of the first layer adheres to the second layer to form an image in response to applied pressure on the first layer. A message board system as recited in claim 1 is shown in each of Figures 1-3. Although the layers may not be seen in some of the Figures, the overall system is shown in all of the Figures. Also, the specification of the present application provides a description of the message board systems shown in Figures 1-3, which includes a similar description of the layers contained therein.

In paragraph 6, the Office Action states that Applicants are required to provide a listing of the claims readable on the elected species. Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are readable upon elected species A. Claims 15-16, although not readable upon elected species A are broadly covered by claim 11.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ P.C.

  
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Dated: April 11, 2005